

United States Embassy - Vienna, Austria
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Large Demonstration and Counter-
Demonstration Planned

October 9, 2014

A pro-Kurdish demonstration is scheduled to take place on Friday, October 10, 2014 from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, has drawn ISIL social media attention.

Kommunistische Gewerkschaftsinitiative (Communist Union Initiative) otherwise known as KOMintern, a pro-Kurdish group, is expected to attract as many as 500 demonstrators demanding international intervention to protect Kurds in Syria and Iraq. Sympathizers of The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) are using social media to call for counter-protests and possibly violence. Police estimate that the threat of violence is low, and will be present in large numbers throughout the demonstration.

The planned demonstration route will start at Westbahnhof, head down Mariahilferstrasse to the Ring Road, and end across from the Parliament building at Ballhausplatz.

We remind you that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Austria enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) (STEP). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates and makes it easier for the U.S. Embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the U.S. Embassy.

Regularly monitor the [State Department's website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Austria](#). For additional information, refer to the "[Traveler's Checklist](#)" on the State Department's website.

Contact the [U.S. Embassy](#) for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to

8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).
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The U.S. Embassy's Consular Section in Vienna is located at Parkring 12a, 4th Floor 1010 Vienna, Austria. To reach the American Citizens Services unit during business hours, please call 31-339-7535, or e-mail us at ConsulateVienna@state.gov. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance outside business hours, **the after-hours emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +43 1-31-339-0.**